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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 DJIBOUTI 000061

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/DSS/IP, DS/IP/AF, AF/E, AF/EX
NAIROBI FOR COM AND RSO
ADDIS ABABA FOR COM AND RSO
AMSARA FOR COM AND RSO
CJTF HOA FOR COMMAND STAFF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/14/2014
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AEMR](#) [CASC](#)
SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI: TRIP WIRES

Classified By: RSO Marc Ramos for Reason 1.5 (D) AND (G)

1. (C) Post held an executive meeting of the Emergency Action Committee on 01/10/2004 to discuss recent threat activity in the region and what measures to take in response to a particular threat. The executive EAC was composed of the Charge' d'Affaires, RSO, COS, USLO and Consular Officer.

2. (C) The EAC discussed potential threats as outlined in recent intelligence reports. RSO and COS continue to work closely with Host Nation and US Military counterparts to mitigate any threat, but the EAC does not feel at this time that an increase in security services is needed. US Military personnel continue to take appropriate measures in accordance with their standard operating procedures.

3. (C) In light of recent intelligence, the EAC reviewed current Trip Wires for Post and updated them accordingly. Due to Post's small size and its unique situation, (having a US Military base less than a 10 minute drive from the Embassy) the EAC adjusted the levels and actions taking into consideration the ability of the US Military to assist in a crisis situation. Listed below is a break down of levels and actions that Post will use as a guide to respond to an emergency situation. This model has been taken from the Trip Wires Guidance published by the Office of Crisis Management Support and has been modified to fit Post needs.

LEVEL ONE SITUATION) A noticeable change in the country situation has been brought to the attention of the EAC. Level One changes would be on the order of those described below, although not limited to those listed.

- Sporadic incidences of student/social unrest focused at US facilities and personnel
- Increased threat reporting against U.S. and/or Western government facilities and or frequented soft targets
- Increased surveillance of Embassy housing or personnel
- Volcano lava flows seen regularly with puffs of smoke from crater
- Increase, frequency and magnitude of seismic activity
- Significant increase in crime
- Hyper-inflation or International Loan payment defaults
- Regional fighting in the region creates large refugee flow (Eritrea/Ethiopia conflict)

LEVEL ONE ACTIONS - Post has experienced Level I situations since the spring of 2002. Post has held various EAC meetings to assess developments, discuss draw down options, and recommend actions to post and the Department. Post has upgraded security measures and has taken, and/or will take as needed, the following steps to mitigate the threat:

- Meet with host government officials and contacts to gather information, express concern, request additional security, and plan for emergency assistance, as appropriate
- Review personnel security arrangements at the office, in transit, and at home
- Review upcoming events with employees and family members
- Offer use of voluntary Separate Maintenance Allowance or R&R/Home Leave orders for family members
- Review F-77 Report of Potential Evacuees for accuracy
- Request clearance from CA/OCS for EAC-approved language for Warden Message or Public Announcement to describe current situation to the public
- Encourage Embassy registration for Amcits
- Conduct post-driven Crisis Management Exercise
- Review & Update Emergency Action Plan and checklists

LEVEL TWO SITUATION) Problems in the country have become chronic or permanent, or the host country has difficulty managing the situation. Level Two changes in situation would be on the order of those described below, although not limited to those listed. (A confluence or combination of specific events would be a precursor to requesting authorized departure)

- Protesters periodically block main roads, demonstrations are frequent and large

- Violent rhetoric increasingly directed toward international community
- Western interests (businesses, schools, cultural centers) threatened or attacked
- Seismic activity leaves residences uninhabitable
- Sporadic incidents of looting, growing criminal activity
- Stores close due to lack of stock, lack of cash
- Indications of a negative change in Host Nation support for the Global War on Terrorism

LEVEL TWO ACTIONS - Post has held various EAC meetings to assess developments, discuss draw down options, and recommend actions to post and the Department. Post has upgraded security measures and has taken, and/or will take as needed, the following steps to mitigate the threat:

- Meet with host government officials and contacts to gather information, express concern, request additional security, plan for emergency assistance, as appropriate. Determine the willingness and ability of host government to assist with securing personnel and facilities
- Consider reducing Embassy operating hours and services or temporarily close to the public, except for emergency American citizen services
- Review Mission staffing patterns; identify emergency personnel and position
- Review F-77 Report of Potential Evacuees, update if necessary
- Review online Evacuation Manual templates for processing personnel in case of Authorized Departure
- Submit EAC language to Department for clearance of a Public Announcement or Travel Warning to advise the public of current situation or any change in status
- Test Warden systems (official and private Amcit networks)
- Hold periodic town meetings with American community; encourage Embassy registration for Amcits
- Test alternate command center & radio networks
- Review evacuation routes and transportation options, verify commercial air schedules
- Review with Consular and Management Officers the papers needed to document U.S. employees and family members and to return to the U.S. or alternate safe haven
- Consider cancellation of large scale social functions and group activities
- Consider travel restrictions for U.S. government employees and limit TDY visits to case by case basis with an emphasis on the needs of the Mission
- Review security for USG personnel and facilities; Enhance security posture with increased local guard and Police presence, roving patrols and Surveillance Detection Teams
- Review & Update Emergency Action Plan and checklists
- Review burn time and drill on SOP,s
- Begin contingency planning with US Military in country

LEVEL THREE SITUATION) Changes in the country situation are widespread, permanent, target U.S. citizens or U.S. interests. The host country is unwilling or unable to manage basic services and security needs. Post requests authorized departure for unessential personnel and dependents. Level Three changes in situation would be on the order of those described below, although not limited to those listed. (A confluence or combination of specific events would be a precursor to requesting ordered departure)

- Police unwilling or unable to prevent large scale violent demonstrations
- Protesters target U.S. Embassy, American community and/or American businesses
- Marked decrease in availability of commercial air traffic
- Terrorist attacks against U.S. or other targets attempted/thwarted
- Western diplomat attacked or assassinated
- Access to American Embassy compound temporarily blocked by protests
- Infectious disease epidemic
- Impact of disaster on capital city includes depleted or interrupted supplies of gasoline, water, food, utility services
- Country infrastructure unable to handle clean-up and repair of services
- Crime causes restriction in travel at night or in certain areas
- Severe shortage of basic necessities (food, water, fuel, power)
- Police cannot prevent massive looting, including in diplomatic residential area

LEVEL THREE ACTIONS) Post will hold an EAC meeting to assess developments, discuss draw down options, and recommend actions to post and the Department. Post leadership will request Authorized Departure for Eligible Family Members and non-emergency personnel. Post will consider a recommendation to the Department for Ordered Departure. Possible EAC recommendations at Level Three are listed below.

- Meet with host government officials and contacts to gather information, express concern, request additional security, plan for emergency assistance, as appropriate. Determine the willingness and ability of host government to assist with securing personnel and facilities
- Consider reduced Embassy operating hours and services or temporarily close to the public, except for emergency American citizen services
- Review Mission staffing patterns; identify emergency personnel and positions
- Review F-77 Report of Potential Evacuees, update if necessary
- Review with Consular and Management Officers the papers needed to document U.S. employees and family members and to return to the U.S. or alternate safe haven
- Review online Evacuation Manual templates for processing personnel for Authorized Departure and in case of Ordered Departure of non-emergency personnel and all EFM,s
- Submit EAC language to Department for clearance of a Travel Warning to advise the public of current situation and/or if post status changes
- Develop Press Guidance for host country media and for Department to use, specific to post situation
- Test Warden systems (official and private Amcit networks)
- Hold periodic town meetings with American community, continue to register Amcits
- Test alternate command center & radio networks
- Review evacuation routes and transportation options, verify commercial air schedules
- Cancel social functions and group activities
- Institute travel restrictions for remaining U.S. government employees
- Provide security escorts for personnel
- RSO reviews residential housing patterns; possibly consolidates official residences
- Curtail TDY visits
- Review security for all USG personnel and facilities; Enhance security posture with increased local guard presence, roving patrols and Surveillance Detection Teams
- Request security assistance from regional USMC FAST detachment out of Bahrain
- Put into effect Emergency Action Plan

LEVEL FOUR SITUATION) Changes in the country situation are widespread, permanent, and target U.S. citizens or U.S. interests. The host country is unwilling or unable to manage basic services and security needs. Post and the Department concur about reducing the number of USG personnel. Posts recommends ordered departure. Level Four changes in situation would be on the order of those described below, although not limited to those listed.

- Large city under rebel control
- Security forces unwilling/unable to control violent demonstrations
- Successful and violent attacks on Government; Any sign of bombings is a problem near Mission facilities
- Anti-U.S. rhetoric widespread, U.S. blamed for problems in host country
- Authorities unresponsive or unavailable to respond to Embassy requests for assistance
- Attacks directly target U.S. Embassy compound
- Airports close; Key international airlines stop providing service
- French medical resources overwhelmed or non-existent
- French Military and Ex-Pat community draws down due to current situation

LEVEL FOUR ACTIONS) Post will hold an EAC meeting to assess developments, discuss draw down options, and recommend actions to post and the Department. Post will recommend Ordered Departure and a relocation of essential staff to US Military base. Possible EAC recommendations at Level Four are listed below.

- Meet with host government officials and contacts to gather information, express concern, request additional security, plan for emergency assistance, as appropriate. Determine the willingness and ability of host government to assist with securing personnel and facilities
- Reduce Embassy operating hours and services or temporarily close to the public, except for emergency American citizen services
- Review Mission staffing patterns, identify core emergency personnel/positions
- Review F-77 Report of Potential Evacuees, update if necessary
- Review with Consular and Management Officers the papers needed to document U.S. employees and family members and to return to the US or alternate safe haven
- Consult with M/FLO for services to evacuated personnel, employment, schools, housing, etc.
- Review online Evacuation Manual templates for processing personnel for Ordered Departure

- Submit EAC language to Department for clearance of a Travel Warning to advise the public of current situation and/or if post status changes
- Draft Press Guidance for local media and submit to Department for post-specific language about the evacuation
- Test Warden systems (official and private Amcit networks)
- Hold periodic town meetings with American community, continue to register Amcits
- Establish alternate command center & radio networks
- Review evacuation routes and transportation options, verify commercial air schedules, maintain close touch with commercial carriers
- Continue to review options for air charter and ground transportation
- Cancel social functions and group activities
- Travel restrictions for remaining U.S. government employees
- Provide security escorts for personnel
- RSO reviews residential housing patterns. Consolidate staff residences or consider moving all personnel onto the Embassy compound or US Military base.
- Curtail TDY visitors
- Review security for USG personnel and facilities;
- Enhance security posture with US Military assistance
- Put into effect Emergency Action Plan and checklists

LEVEL FIVE SITUATION) Post suspends operations due to full-scale war or other catastrophic event. Due to Post size and the presence of US Military Forces in country, Post, in consultation with the Department, will consider maintaining minimal operations from US Military base dependant upon the type and size of the catastrophic event.

14. (U) POC is RSO Marc Ramos at 253-35-39-95 ext.2307 or RamosMA@State.SGOV.GOV
SMITH